



KENTUCKY · OHIO · INDIANA · TENNESSEE · WEST VIRGINIA

Mark David Goss (859) 244-3232 MGOSS@FBTLAW.COM

October 29, 2009

Hon. Helen Helton General Counsel Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Boulevard P. O. Box 615 Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0615

Re:

In the Matter of: Petition of TracFone Wireless, Inc. for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the Commonwealth of Kentucky for the Limited Purpose of Offering Lifeline Service to Qualified Households; PSC Case No. 2009-00100

Dear Helen:

According to the Procedural Order of September 10, 2009, the deadlines for all procedural milestones have now passed. Comments on TracFone's Petition have been filed by both the Kentucky Attorney General and the Kentucky Chapter of the National Emergency TracFone has provided the Commission with its response to those Number Association. comments. Since no request for a public hearing has been filed, this case is now ripe for decision by the Commission.

TracFone is anxious to commence offering its SafeLink Wireless service to low income Kentucky households in the very near future. Accordingly, TracFone sincerely hopes that the Commission will approve its ETC application as soon as possible

TracFone already has been authorized to provide Lifeline service in 23 states and the District of Columbia, and the service is currently available in 20 states, with service to the remaining authorized states planned for the near future. As the Commission is aware, Lifeline is a program which was established by the Federal Communications Commission as part of its implementation of the universal service provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETCs) receive support from the federal Universal Service Fund to provide discounted telecommunications service to low income consumers. TracFone's SafeLink Wireless Lifeline service differs from other Lifeline services available in Kentucky in

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several important respects. First, it is a wireless service which means that consumers can use the service to call from anywhere to anywhere -- service is not limited to their residences. TracFone's Lifeline customers will enjoy the security and convenience of mobility. Second, it is free. Unlike traditional Lifeline services where enrolled customers receive discounts on their monthly bills -- which they still must pay or face service disruption, TracFone SafeLink Wireless customers receive free handsets and free wireless airtime minutes each month. Those free minutes may be used for local and long distance calling, roaming (no additional charges) as well as international calls to more than 60 destinations. The service also includes important vertical features such as voice mail, call waiting and caller ID. Other providers' Lifeline customers must pay additional, non-discounted, charges for those features.

Lifeline is a very underutilized program in Kentucky. According to data published by the FCC and by the Universal Service Administrative Company, fewer than twenty percent of qualified low income Kentucky households are enrolled in Lifeline. Stated another way, more than eighty percent of those Kentucky households who are eligible for Lifeline support are not receiving it, despite the fact that those are the people for whom Lifeline was created. In the states where TracFone's SafeLink Wireless is available, there has been a dramatic increase in Lifeline participation following TracFone's introduction of SafeLink Wireless. To date, more than 2.5 million households are enrolled in SafeLink Wireless and the Lifeline participation rate among qualified households has increased dramatically. For example, in Virginia, TracFone has increased Lifeline enrollment by 692 percent; in Tennessee, by 278 percent; in Florida by 300 percent.; in Georgia, by 285 percent. TracFone is confident that it will be able to similarly raise Lifeline participation in Kentucky and it is anxious to begin.

Please let me know should the Commission desire any further information or documentation from TracFone which would assist the Commission in expediting a decision in this case.

For your information, TracFone is this date filing a motion with the Commission to amend its Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier merely to clarify that it will offer Lifeline service in all areas of Kentucky served by AT&T Mobility and T-Mobile, and later Verizon Wireless. This amendment should not affect the Commission's ability to render an expedited decision.

Sincerely yours

Mark David Goss

cc: Mr. Jeffrey Derouen, Executive Director, Kentucky PSC Hon. Dennis G. Howard, II, Assistant Attorney General, Commonwealth of Kentucky Hon. Tiffany J. Bowman, Staff Attorney, Kentucky PSC

